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PUBLIC HEALTH, WELFARE & 6AFETY

Exhibit No. 2

Date 2 - 21 - 67

Bill No. 58 505

February 20, 2007

Senator Weinberg Montana State Senate Public Health, Welfare and Safety PO Box 200500 Helena, MT 59620-0500

Chairman Weinberg and Members of the Committee:

Re: Support to SB505

Good afternoon, my name is Kristin Nei, representing the American Cancer Society. I ask for your support of SB505.

The HPV vaccine is a revolutionary development in the fight against cancer. It marks the *first-ever* vaccination to prevent any type of cancer.

Cervical cancer incidence and mortality are disproportionately high among medically underserved women, who may not have access to regular Pap tests. The vaccine has the potential to significantly reduce these disparities.

Studies show the vaccine has the potential to prevent up to 70 percent of the more than 11,150 invasive cervical cancers and 3,670 cervical cancer deaths expected in the U.S. in 2007.

The American Cancer Society recommends routine HPV vaccination for females ages 11 * to 12 to help prevent cervical cancer and for females age 13 to 18 years to catch up missed vaccine or complete the vaccination series.

The Society supports the widest possible vaccination coverage consistent with Society guidelines and will work through education programs to ensure the widest coverage.

The vaccine may appear expensive to administer, but that cost pales in comparison to the \$3.5 billion spent on treating HPV-related cervical disease each year.

The Society supports states' efforts <u>such as the Cervical Cancer Task Force</u> to increase use of the vaccine.

The Society does not have national policy on mandating vaccines for school attendance, however, the Society does support states' efforts to increase use of the vaccine.

We believe that the Task Force will result in the promotion and appropriate use of the Human Papillomavirus Vaccine in Montana.

Great West Division Missoula Office 3550 Mullan Rd, Suite 105 Missoula, MT 59808 t) 406.542.2191 / 1.877.488.7723 f) 406.327.0146 Cancer Information 1.800.ACS.2345 www.cancer.org

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ACS 2/20/07 2:45 PM Formatted: Indent: Left: 0" Thank you for your consideration of this important issue. Please support SB505.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kristin Page Nei

Montana Government Relations Committee